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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/509,383	05/27/2005	Minoru Yamamoto	121278	5078
25944	7590	08/23/2006	EXAMINER	
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 19928 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320			WILLIAMS, KEVIN D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2854	

DATE MAILED: 08/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/509,383

Applicant(s)

YAMAMOTO ET AL.

Examiner

Kevin D. Williams

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 June 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 4-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 4-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 September 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. The indicated allowability of claims 2 and 4 is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to Kimura. Rejections based on the newly cited reference follow.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 6 and 7 are objected to because of the following informalities:

In claim 6, line 15, the limitation "the cover" lacks proper antecedent basis.

In claim 7, line 13, the limitation "the cover" lacks proper antecedent basis.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, 2, 4-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kimura (JP 04020430).

With respect to claims 1, 5, Kimura teaches a printer comprising: a sheet supply unit (Fig. 4) that accommodates a stack of sheets therein; a pickup roller 14 which

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contacts and drives one side of the stack of sheets accommodated in the sheet supply unit and thereby feeds each sheet toward a printing unit; a cover (bottom in Fig. 4) which covers the other side of the stack of sheets accommodated in the sheet supply unit, a forcible curling unit (Fig. 4) which forcibly curls the sheets accommodated in the sheet supply unit in a sheet width direction, the forcible curling unit reducing curling of the sheets during feeding in a sheet feed direction that is substantially perpendicular to the sheet width direction, the forcible curling unit including a rib (19 top center in Fig. 4) which is provided inside the sheet supply unit to protrude toward the cover so that a tip of the rib will press the stack of sheets accommodated in the sheet supply unit at its central part in regard to the sheet width direction, the sheets being set in the sheet supply unit in the form of a sheet package including a package member containing the sheets.

With respect to claim 2, Kimura teaches a printer comprising: a sheet supply unit (Fig. 4) that accommodates a stack of sheets therein; a pickup roller 14 which contacts and drives one side of the stack of sheets accommodated in the sheet supply unit and thereby feeds each sheet toward a printing unit; a cover (bottom in Fig. 4) which covers the other side of the stack of sheets accommodated in the sheet supply unit, a forcible curling unit (Fig. 4) which forcibly curls the sheets accommodated in the sheet supply unit in a sheet width direction, the forcible curling unit including ribs (19 on bottom side in Fig. 4) which are provided to the cover to protrude toward the pickup roller so that tips of the ribs will press the stack of sheets accommodated in the sheet supply unit at both sides in regard to the sheet width direction.

With respect to claim 4, Kimura teaches a printer comprising: a sheet supply unit (Fig. 4) that accommodates a stack of sheets therein; a pickup roller 14 which contacts and drives one side of the stack of sheets accommodated in the sheet supply unit and thereby feeds each sheet toward a printing unit; a cover (bottom in Fig. 4) which covers the other side of the stack of sheets accommodated in the sheet supply unit, a forcible curling unit (Fig. 4) which forcibly curls the sheets accommodated in the sheet supply unit in a sheet width direction, the cover being provided with pressing means 15 which applies pressure on the sheets accommodated in the sheet supply unit toward the pickup roller, and the forcible curling unit including ribs (19 on bottom side in Fig. 4) which are provided to the pressing means to protrude toward the pickup roller so that tips of the ribs are capable of pressing the stack of sheets accommodated in the sheet supply unit at both sides in regard to the sheet width direction.

With respect to claims 6-8, Kimura teaches a printer comprising: a sheet supply unit (Fig. 4) that accommodates a stack of sheets therein; a pickup roller 14 which contacts and drives one side of the stack of sheets accommodated in the sheet supply unit and thereby feeds each sheet toward a printing unit; a sheet separation unit (Fig. 5) provided on a downstream side of the sheet supply unit in a sheet feed direction, a forcible curling unit (Fig. 4) which forcibly curls the sheets accommodated in the sheet supply unit in a sheet width direction, the forcible curling unit reducing curling of the sheets during feeding in a sheet feed direction that is substantially perpendicular to the sheet width direction, the forcible curling unit including a rib (19 top center in Fig. 4) which is provided inside the sheet supply unit to protrude toward the cover so that a tip

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of the rib will press the stack of sheets accommodated in the sheet supply unit at its central part in regard to the sheet width direction, where the cover is provided with pressure a pressure plate 15 which applies pressure on the sheets accommodated in the sheet supply unit toward the pickup roller, where the forcible curling unit includes ribs (19 on the bottom side in Fig. 4) which are provided to the pressure plate to protrude toward the pickup roller so that tips of the ribs are capable of pressing the stack of sheets accommodated in the sheet supply unit at both sides in regard to the sheet width direction.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 2, 4-8 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kevin D. Williams whose telephone number is (571) 272-2172. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:30am - 6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew H. Hirshfeld can be reached on (571) 272-2168. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

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published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a

USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information

system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

KDW

August 15, 2006



Daniel J. Colilla
Primary Examiner
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